

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6635

BILL NUMBER: HB 1224

NOTE PREPARED: Mar 31, 2009

BILL AMENDED: Mar 31, 2009

SUBJECT: Water Resources Task Force and Study Committee.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Stemler

FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Mishler

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 2nd House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) *Water Resources Task Force*. This bill creates a 10-member water resources task force to study and make recommendations concerning water availability as an economic and environmental necessity. The bill provides that appointments to the task force are made by the director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), provides that the director is a nonvoting member, and requires DNR to staff the task force. The bill provides that a member must attend a minimum of 50% of the meetings of the task force or be replaced.

The bill requires certain state agencies to designate a representative to advise the task force. It permits invitation of representatives of other state and federal agencies to advise the task force. It requires the task force to make an annual report of its activities to the Water Resources Study Committee and the Legislative Council.

Water Resources Study Committee. It requires the Water Resources Study Committee to study the regulation of residential irrigation system installations and ground water preservation and protection.

Effective Date: July 1, 2009.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) *Water Resources Task Force*. The task force consists of 10 individuals appointed by the DNR director. The DNR must provide staff support for the task force. The task force must provide an annual report of activities and recommendations to the Water Resources Study Committee and the Legislative Council.

Each of the following state agencies must designate a representative to advise the task force:

- (1) The DNR.
- (2) The Department of Environmental Management (IDEM).
- (3) the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).
- (4) the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (IDOA).
- (5) the State Department of Health (ISDH).

The director may invite representatives of other state agencies to advise the task force.

The initial term of a member of the task force begins January 1, 2010.

Participating state agencies should be able to cover any additional administrative expenses associated with attending task force meetings given their existing levels of resources. The DNR will incur additional administrative expenses because it must provide staff for the task force. However, it is presumed that the DNR will be able to cover expenses associated with the task force given its existing level of resources. The DNR reverted about \$3 M in General Fund appropriations in FY 2008.

The bill does not specify reimbursement for per diem or traveling expenses.

(Revised) *Water Resources Study Committee*. It requires the Water Resources Study Committee to study the regulation of residential irrigation system installations and ground water preservation and protection. This bill would have a minimal impact only if the committee held a meeting or meetings that it would not have held were it not for the need to study the topic assigned under the bill. If the committee met an additional time or times to consider the topic, per diem and travel expenses for the committee would increase. However, total expenses for the committee could not exceed its budget, which is established by the Legislative Council. The budget for the 2008 interim was \$9,500.

The committee is funded from state General Fund appropriations to the Legislative Council and Legislative Services Agency.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The DNR director may appoint members who represent municipalities. Participating municipalities could experience an increase in administrative expenses associated with travel and attending task force meetings. However, it is presumed that municipalities will be able to cover any additional expenses given existing levels of resources.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: DNR, IDEM, DHS, IDOA, ISDH, Legislative Council, and others.

Local Agencies Affected: Municipalities.

Information Sources:

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